

✓ The Telephone Girl . ✓

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12, HELLO AND GOOD-B E ✓

~~NEVER SAY NEVER!~~

By H. C. Witwer ✓



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HELLO AND GOODBYE

Never Say "Never"!

By H. C. Witwer

In the lobby of the Hotel St. Moe, the telephone girls, Gladys Murgatroyd and Hazel Killian are examining the new togs which they have just purchased for the yachting trip as guests of Tom Foster. Tom Foster, a youthful auto racer, has recently sprung into prominence by winning the Thatcher Cup. Miss Fortune, the owner of the Fortune Flyer, which Tom drove to victory, has loaned Tom her yacht for a trip to Los Angeles, where Tom is scheduled to race in the race in the biggest auto race of the year.

While the two girls are talking excitedly about the coming trip, Jerry Murphy, the house detective, comes up to the switchboard, carrying a battered spyglass. Jimmie Burns, the chief bellhop, follows him. Jimmie has on his bellhop uniform, but on his head is a sou'wester. They, too, have been invited to go on the trip.

Now, Tom has two society girl friends, whom he has asked on the trip. They object to associating with such company and let Tom know how they feel. He

tells them that Gladys is a nice little girl and they dare not object too strenuously for fear of losing out on the trip themselves. One of the girls is particularly fond of Tom. Alan Keen, a wealthy sportsman, has also received an invitation to join the cruise. He takes a liking to Gladys, but she squelches him.

The following day at the Yacht Club landing everything is ready for departure. All guests are aboard with the exception of Gladys and Hazel and their pals. Tom, Keen, the two society girls and a chaperon are watching for their arrival. A sailor stands on the landing ready to cast off when the order comes. Tom consults his watch. The girls are obviously impatient. One of the girls tells Tom that they must have decided not to go. At last in desperation, Tom gives the order for the sailor to cast off. The launch slides away from the landing. This pleases the two snobs very much.

In the meantime, Gladys and Hazel with Jerry and Jimmie are searching for a dime which Hazel

dropped. They finally give up and continue to the yacht landing, only to find upon arriving there, that the yacht is steaming out to sea. Without losing a moment Jimmie points to an empty launch alongside the landing. Hastily they tumble aboard. Jimmie gets the motor started. In their excitement they forget to cast off. The launch vibrates violently and no progress is made. Hazel is beside herself. Jimmie realizes the difficulty and casts off and away they go with Jerry piloting. After much precarious maneuvering they reach Tom's party and are taken aboard.

Jerry, Jimmie and Hazel present a strange contrast to the rest of the party. Gladys is considerably chagrined at a few of their breaks, but at last things are smoothed out and the yacht gets under way.

As they near the coast of California, the party stops for a shore lunch at an uninhabited island off the coast from Los Angeles. They plan to steam into Los Angeles that evening and make ready for the race which takes place the following day. But while they are eating one of the girls looks out to sea and sees the boat leaving the island. It is then that Tom learns that his would-be friend, Keen, has a friend racing at Los Angeles, too. Keen knows that his friend hasn't a chance if Tom enters

the race and so has planned to keep Tom away. He tells Tom that the boat will return the following day to pick up the party. The two society girls take this news lightly. Tom is desperate.

Night comes on and Gladys, who has been on the alert, sights a light. Investigation proves that it is the boat of a band of bootleggers. Tom, with the help of Jerry and Jimmie, gets possession of the boat and with all the girls aboard they head for Los Angeles, leaving Keen behind with the bootleggers.

After many delays, Tom reaches the race track. The race is in progress and the substitute, who has taken Tom's car out is far behind. There is wild excitement when the manager sees Tom. The Fortune Flyer is waved in and Tom takes his place at the wheel. Gladys whispers to Tom: "You can win, Tom. Never say 'Never'!" Before Tom's inspired driving, Tom's opponent melts away. Within a few yards of victory the Fortune Flyer falls. Tom is unconquered. The distance is short and Tom and the mechanic decide that they have a chance of pushing it over the line. After much laboring they go over the line and the checkered flag waves for victory. There is a rush to congratulate Tom—and Gladys who could never say 'Never' to Tom's question, "Will you marry me?"

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